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Gov. Patton Announces Changes To Control Medicaid Drug Costs

Gov. Paul Patton announced today a new initiative designed to bring the growing costs of prescription drugs under control in Kentucky's Medicaid program.

Gov. Patton has issued an executive order establishing a Pharmacy and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (P&T Committee) that will advise the governor and the Cabinet for Health Services on the development and administration of a new drug review process. It will allow the state to place selected costly drugs on a prior-authorization list upon the recommendation of the P&T Committee when the use of the drug presents a financial burden to the state or poses a significant safety issue. Prior authorization means that the Department for Medicaid Services must grant approval before a prescription for the drug can be filled.

"The tremendous growth in the costs of prescription drugs in the Medicaid program demands prudent management today more than ever before," Gov. Patton said. "This is a first step that will assist us in bringing these costs under control while at the same time assuring that needed drugs are available for Medicaid eligible Kentuckians."

Gov. Patton has also asked the Cabinet for Health Services to file an emergency regulation which will:

- Spell out changes in the drug review process;
- require prior authorization for brand name drugs for which there are available generic forms;
- clarify when a drug is a "new" drug and cannot be placed on prior authorization, under terms of existing statute;

The existing Drug Management Review Advisory Board will remain in place and focus on drug utilization review, disease management and provider education. The board met Monday, Oct. 1, to review the new proposals which are scheduled to take effect Dec. 1.

Drug costs in the Kentucky Medicaid program grew from \$433 million during the 1999-2000

fiscal year to \$568 million during the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

(These costs do not include the 16-county Passport region, a managed care partnership.)



"Many states already have a P&T committee to oversee the Medicaid formulary and prior authorization process," said Kathy Kustra, special assistant to the governor for Medicaid. "This will give us a tool to better manage the drug costs in Medicaid."

Kustra and Health Services Secretary Marcia Morgan described the committee as a key step in an overall strategy to improve management of the Medicaid budget.

"With the Governor's leadership and support of members of the General Assembly, we have made a good start in improving the way the Medicaid program is managed," Morgan said. "These changes in prescription drugs will provide an excellent foundation for a sound pharmacy benefits management program."



Tammy Dubree, Warren County

Web Magazine Details CFC Response to Attacks

A special issue of CFC Online, the Cabinet for Families and Children's electronic magazine, describes some of the ways Cabinet employees have responded to the recent terrorist attacks and the resulting national emergency.

Some are ready to serve victims directly, if needed. Others are devoting extra effort to their everyday jobs—serving the needs of Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens.

In Warren County, caseworker Tammy Dubree made one of the darkest days in American history one of the brightest for a child who needed a wheelchair ramp at her foster home. Dubree, a former member of the U.S. Army Reserve's 5010th Hospital Division, also stands ready to leave her home and her two young children if recalled to duty.

In Whitley County, Shannon Jones decided the weekend following the terrorist attacks that children of victimized families needed the services of trained relief workers like her. Jones, a rapid response specialist for the Cabinet's Cumberland Valley Region, told her supervisors that if New York state's social services need volunteers to work with such children, she's ready to go.

The special issue, posted this week on the Internet, details the extra efforts and spirit of volunteerism shown by Dubree, Jones and other CFC employees. It also features a guest article by Terry L. Singer, dean of the Kent School of

Social Work at the University of Louisville, on the challenges the terrorist attacks pose for human service professionals.

You can access CFC Online at:

<http://cfc.state.ky.us/cfconline/special%20issue/special%20issue%20cover.htm>

Clarification: IT Equipment Use

As a result of the memo "Unauthorized Use of IT Equipment for Non-state Related Business," (dated Sept. 28, 2001), there have been various inquiries asking for further definition. The area of emphasis that resulted in the memo pertains to the use of e-mail. Please refrain from using the Commonwealth's e-mail system to forward chain letters.

The Cabinet is required to adhere to the Governor's Office for Technology (GOT), Internet and Electronic Mail Acceptable Use Policy (GOT-060). A copy of this policy has been attached and provides guidelines pertaining to the specific use of the Commonwealth's email and internet services.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (502) 564-6478 x 4171 or by e-mail at Maurice.Garrard@mail.state.ky.us.



Help Desk Pilots New Software

On October 4, the CFC Help Desks staff (KAMES, KASES, KCCMS, CFC NETWORK, CFC SECURITY and TWIST) will be piloting a new software REMEDY. This software will assist in the tracking of phone calls and other requests received by the CFC Help Desk Staff.

If during the pilot time frame (Oct. 4 - 18) CFC Field Staff call for assistance from any of the CFC Help Desks, they may receive e-mail with a message concerning Help Desk Ticket information. Please disregard these e-mails at this time.

NOTE: The GOT Help Desk (hardware assistance) currently utilizes the REMEDY system to track phone calls. Any e-mail that you receive from this Help Desk should not be disregarded.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call the appropriate Help Desk.

What's on the Way!

- .. The Ombudsman's Office is accepting donations for their KECC Yard Sale. They can accept anything except clothing or live animals. Call Michele or Rodney at 564-5497 for details!
- .. The Cabinet for Families and Children Employee Recognition Picnic will be on Thursday, Oct. 11, at Lakeview Park Pavilion from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Food will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- .. Plans are in the works for a Health and Wellness Fair on Friday, Oct. 12, for CFC employees. Watch Pipeline for more details.
- .. CFC Clean-Up Day will be Oct. 19.



Sick Leave Needs

Maurica Ellis, OPE, is in need of donated sick leave. To donate leave time, contact Gloria Calhoun at 564-5402.

